

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

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R 031535Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7802

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S (DP) SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION, FEBRUARY 1-2, REELECTED FERRUH BOZBEYLI AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AND ENDORSED HOLDING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER, 1975. DP WAS UNABLE TO EXHIBIT ANY NEW SUPPORTERS FROM MENDERES-ERA DEMOCRAT PARTY. NO INDICATION OF DP WILLINGNESS TO JOIN ANY POTENTIAL GOVERNING COALITION EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HELD ITS SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS IN ANKARA, FEBRUARY 1-2. FERRUH BOZBEYLI, WHO WAS REELCETED PARTY CHAIRMAN WITH A TOTAL OF 840 VOTES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 859 CAST, WAS IN APPARENT TOTAL CONTROL OF CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH FINAL VOTE TALLIES NOT YET AVAILABLE, IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT PRESENT PARTY LEADERSHIP WILL REMAIN BASICALLY UNCHANGED. IN COMPARISON WITH CONVENTIONS OF OTHER PARTIES HELD RECENTLY, DP CONVENTIONWAS SPARSELY ATTENDED AND

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SHOWED HIGHER AGE LEVEL BOTH IN ITS DELEGATES AND THOSE

WHO CAME TO WATCH.

2. THE CONGRESS APPROVED A COMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS BE HELD IN OCTOBER, 1975 TO COINCIDE WITH SCHEDULED SENATORIAL ELECTIONS BUT AT SAME TIME PROCLAIMING THAT DP WOULD NOT BE "RIGID" AND THAT ELECTION DATE SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY PARTIES WHICH FORMED A GOVERNMENT; A LINE THE DP HAS USED BEFORE IN REJECTING REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR ELCTIONS AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR COALITION. WHILE ATTACKING ALL OTHER PARTIES IN GENERAL(AND THE NATIONALIST FRONT IN PARTICULAR) FOR ATTEMPTING TO DISMEMBER THE DP, BOZBEYLI DID HAVE A FEW WORDS OF PRAISE FOR FORMER PRIMIN ECEVIT'S HANDLING OF THE CYPRUS INTERVENTION. THE DP ALSO CHANGED ITS CONSTITUTION TO OFFICIALLY ADOPT THE CHARACTERIZATION OF "DEMOCRATIC RIGHT" AS PARTY IDEOLOGY. (ALTHOUGH IMPLICATIONS OF "DEMOCRATIC RIGHT" NOT FULLY SPELLED OUT, DP APPARENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH AN IDENTITY AS THE COUNTERPOISE TO THE "DEMOCRATIC LEFT" RPP.

3. COMMENT: A. MOST SUCCESSFUL ASPECT OF CONGRESS FOR DP WAS FACT THAT CONGRESS WAS HELD WITHOUT PUBLIC DISSENSION OR DEFECTION OF DP DEPUTIES. BOZBEYLI' S LEADERSHIP WAS RE-AFFIRMED IN CONVINCING FASHION. ON DEBIT SIDE, DP WAS UNABLE PRODUCE A SINGLE NEW ADHERENT FROM THE RANKS OF FORMER MEMBERS OF THE MENDERES-LED DEMOCRAT PARTY. (EX. PRES. BAYAR, IN A TELEGRAM TO THE CONVENTION EXPRESSING HIS REGRET AT NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND, NOTED THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO WORK FOR A MERGER OF PARTIES OF LIKE PHILOSOPHY AND URGED THE DP TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS EFFORTS.) THE FAILURE OF THE DP TO PRODUCE ADHERENCES OF ANY "OLD DEMOCRATS," IS PROBABLY A REFLECTION OF BAYAR'S SUCCESS AT CONVINCING LATTER TO WORK FOR UNIFICATION OF THE RIGHT RATHER THAN SPLITTING THEIR STRENGTH BETWEEN DP AND JUSTICE PARTY.

B. CONVENTION FAILED TO PRODUCE INDICATIONS OF DP WILLINGNESS TO JOIN A COALITION THAT WOULD RESOLVE GOVERNMENT CRISIS. THE DP'S EARLY ELECTION DECISION OFFERS SOME ENCOURAGEMENT TO RPP, BUT DP HAS BEEN WILLING TO GO FOR FALL ELECTIONS FOR LAST SEVERAL MONTHS. MOST LIKELY PROSPECT IS THAT ANY EFFORTS FOR ENDING GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL BE BACKSTAGE AND TENTATIVE
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UNTIL AFTER THE VOTE ON APPROVAL OF BUDGET LATER THIS MONTH.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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